



St. Thomas Aquinas

Regional Catholic High School

English IV AP Literature and Composition Summer Reading Assignment

1. First, read *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas C. Foster, and be prepared to take a test on this novel during the first full day of class (50 points possible).
2. Second, choose a novel from the New York Times Bestseller List (2017) for Hardcover or Paperback **Fiction** to read and complete a 500-750 word book review. The book must be at an appropriate level for your abilities as an AP student and it must be SCHOOL APPROPRIATE. Please remember, this is a college-level course. Therefore, your book selection should be appropriate for a college-level course. The book review should be in MLA format and include the week/weeks the book was on the Bestseller List. Students should organize their own papers, choosing one or two elements of the book to critique and evaluate. **Students should not recap or summarize the plot of the book in any way.** The book review will be due on the first day of class in eBackpack. (50 points possible)
3. Finally, read *Crime and Punishment* by Fyodor Dostoyevsky and write a paper according to the prompt and directions below:

Palestinian American literary theorist and cultural critic Edward Said has written that "Exile is strangely compelling to think about but terrible to experience. It is the unhealable rift forced between a human being and a native place, between self and its true home: its essential sadness can never be surmounted." Yet Said has also said that exile can become "a potent, even enriching" experience.

Analyze *Crime and Punishment* from the perspective of a character who experiences a rift such as the one described above and becomes cut off from "home," whether that home is the character's birthplace, family, homeland, or other special place. Analyze how the character's experience is both alienating and enriching, and how this experience illuminates the meaning of the work as a whole. Do not merely summarize the plot.

- Length requirement: 900-1200 words. Papers shorter than 900 or longer than 1200 words will lose points.
- The paper should include an introduction with a thesis statement, be developed through organized body paragraphs, and end with a conclusion that summarizes the thesis statement and the main points of development. **DO NOT RECAP THE PLOT OF THE NOVEL IN YOUR PAPER.**
- Formatting and citations must be according to MLA. You must have a works cited page for your in-text citations. Do not include works on your works cited page for which you do not have an in-text citation.

- Literature analysis is text-based. Therefore, your paper should make good use of quotes and concrete examples from the novel to back up your thesis or central argument. **There must be a minimum of five quotes from the novel in your paper as supporting evidence.** Outside (scholarly) sources are not required but may be used.
- Use the historical present tense for this paper. Use the historical present whenever you narrate events that happened in the past as though they were happening in the present. For example: “In *Jane Eyre*, Bronte **writes** about issues of identity and how they **affect** the main characters in her novel.”
- The paper will be due **on the first day of class** and will be submitted through eBackpack.
- The paper is worth a maximum of 100 points.